Lack of essential facilities in AIIMS

2573. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the internal working of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi has developed large number of shortcomings as has been revealed by random checking recently;

(b) whether the life saving drugs like antibiotics and other essential medical and surgical equipments like gloves, masks and connector for giving intravenous fluids are not available; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct an enquiry into these shortcomings and ensure that various essential facilities are made available in this premier institute?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. All commonly use and Life saving/emergency items in the AIIMS hospital are procured and provided for all in-patients. However, costly/other surgical items are bought by the Patients' attendants. For very poor indigent patients and Employee Health Services (EHS) patients all the required items are provided by the Institute.

A total of 550 different types of medicines are being procured and issued to inpatient areas which include 96 antibiotics listed as per AIIMS Drug Formulary. In addition costly high end antibiotics and other costly medicines are also issued to the poor indigent patients on specific recommendation of the treating doctor. There is no shortage of any life saving, essential and common used medicine and surgical consumable items for the hospital inpatients in AIIMS Hospital.

Fertility rate in HP

2574. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special plan has been formulated to bring down total fertility rate in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have examined the causes for not achieving the target by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. No special plan has been formulated to bring down Total Fertility Rate in Himachal Pradesh, since the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of Himachal Pradesh is already showing a declining trend. It has come down to 2.14 as per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-II, from 2.97 reported in NFHS-I.

The National Population Policy, 2000 aims at achievement of Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 by 2010. Himachal Pradesh is already very close to attainment of this goal and therefore, needs no special plan for this.

Malnutrition among children

2575. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M.S. Swaminathan Foundation (MSSF) and World Food Programme (WFP) had brought out very recently an Atlas titled "Food Insecurity Atlas of Urban India", which indicated that a large number of children in Indian cities suffer from extreme malnutrition;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such a situation; and

(c) the efforts being made to avoid such malnutrition among city children?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) As per publication of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and World Food Programme, which is primarily based on the report by National Family Health Survey 1998-99, in the country as a whole only 11.6% of the children less then 3 years old are severely under-weight.

(b) The main factors that are responsible for severe malnutrition are combination of several factors such as inadequate food, poor socio-economic status leading to low purchasing power, high rate of population growth and low access of population to health services, non-availability of safe drinking water, female illiteracy etc.